

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO CONSULTATIONS ON
TROOP WITHDRAWAL

REF: (A) SEOUL 4000 (DTG 130842Z MAY 77), (B) SEOUL 4097

(DTG 171023Z MAY 77)

SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS THIS WEEK HAS CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON
UP-COMING TALKS ON U.S. GROUND TROOP WITHDRAWAL, WITH
COMMENTARIES STRESSING DOUBTS AS TO WISDOM OF WITHDRAWAL
AND NEED FOR NUCLEAR AND OTHER GUARANTEES IF IT IS CARRIED
OUT, AND NEED TO MAINTAIN ARMISTICE AND UNC. END SUMMARY.

1. SERIES OF FRONT-PAGE FEATURE ARTICLES IN TONGA ILBO EN-
TITLED "HOPES FOR CONSULTATIONS ON WITHDRAWAL" HAS BEEN
PARTICULARLY INTERESTING, FIRST TWO ARTICLES GIVING POINT OF
VIEW OF SENIOR ROK POLITICIANS HO CHONG, FORMER PRIME
MINISTER, AND DR. YU CHIN-O, FORMER NDP PRESIDENT. BOTH
TOOK LINE THAT SECURITY OF KOREA IS PROBLEM TRANSCENDING
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CONFRONTATION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AND IS IMPORTANT FOR
U.S. WORLD STRATEGY. HO FRANKLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD RECONSIDER PHASEOUT PLAN AND SHELVE
IT. YU DID NOT OPPOSE "KOREANIZATION OF KOREAN ISSUE," BUT
FELT U.S. TROOPS SHOULD REMAIN TO CHECK PRC AND USSR:
"OTHERWISE, USF/K PHASEOUT WILL SERIOUSLY AFFECT KOREA'S
STABILITY, REGARDLESS OF ROK MILITARY BUILDUP."

2. TWO OTHER ARTICLES MAY 19 AMPLIFY LATTER POINT AND SUGGEST SOME POINTS ROKG MAY BE CONSIDERING FOR MAY 24 CONSULTATIONS. KIM CHOM-GON, DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, KYONGHUI UNIVERSITY, IN THIRD ARTICLE OF TONGA SERIES NOTED ABOVE, AND HAN'GUK ILBO'S REPORTER AN T'AEK-SU, IN INSIDE-PAGE FEATURE ARTICLE, BOTH VOICE HOPES FOR KEEPING STRATEGIC FIGHTING UNITS OF U.S. SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION UNTIL LAST STAGE OF WITHDRAWAL, FOR RETAINING PRESENT LOGISTIC SUPPLY SYSTEEM, AND FOR LEAVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ROK EVEN AFTER (PARTIAL) WITHDRAWAL. (AN SUGGESTS 400 "NUCLEAR-CAPABLE WEAPONS" BE TRANSFERRED TO ROK.) IN ADDITION, KIM ASSERTS U.S. MUST PROMISE, IN "CLEAREST, MOST EFFECTIVE WAY" TO NORTH KOREA, PRC, AND USSR AS WELL AS ROK, RE-INTERVENTION (TO INCLUDE NUCLEAR WEAPONS) IN EVENT OF ANOTHER SOUTHWARD ATTACK, AND THAT U.S. MUST NOT PROCEED TO NEXT STEP OF PHASED WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT "CLEAR AND POSITIVE" RESPONSE FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AT EACH STAGE.

3. EDITORIALS IN OFFICIAL SOEOUL SINMUN MAY 17-18 STRESSED NEED FOR STRONG US-ROK JOINT DEFENSE POSTURE TO FORCE NORTH KOREA (NK) TO CHOOSE IMPROVED SOUTH-NORTH RELATIONS RATHER THAN WAR, FOR "SUFFICIENT" US-ROK CONSULTATIONS ON WITHDRAWAL PLAN, AND FOR U.S. GUARANTEE OF NUCLEAR SUPPORT FOR ROK, WHICH IS FACED WITH A NK "SUPPORTED BY TWO NUCLEAR NATIONS."

4. SEOUL SINMUN ARTICLE MAY 13, BY YUCHONGHOE ASSEMBLYMAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KU POM-MO, PRESENTS SIX POINTS AUTHOR BELIEVES ROK SHOULD STRESS IN TALKS: (A) U.S. SUPPORT FOR ROK FORCES IMPROVEMENT AND DEFENSE INDUSTRY; (B) U.S. RECOGNITION THAT ROK "BADLY NEEDS NATIONAL CONSOLIDATION AND UNIFIED POLITICAL SYSTEM, (C) U.S. MAINTENANCE OF AIR AND NAVAL FORCES, AND RETENTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN COUNTRY, AS DETERRENT AGAINST PRC AND USSR (AND SECONDARILY NORTH KOREA); (D) MAINTENANCE OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND UN COMMAND, WITH DESIGNATION OF KOREAN SENIOR MEMBER OF ARMISTICE COMMISSION; (E) ROK PARTICIPATION IN ANY INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS; (F) ESTABLISHMENT OF "COMBINED OPERATIONAL COMMAND" FOR "TRANSITIONAL PERIOD" AT END OF WHICH TRANSFER OF OPERATIONAL CONTROL WOULD BE "FEASIBLE." ARTICLE IS UNUSUALLY CLEARLY STRUCTURED, AND ITS MAIN POINTS WERE PICKED UP IN KOREA HERALD INTERVIEW WHICH KU PUBLISHED MAY 18, SUGGESTING THAT KU'S ARGUMENTS MAY REFLECT THINKING OF AT LEAST SOME IN ROKG. REFERENCE TO KOREAN AS SENIOR MAC MEMBER IS SUGGESTION THAT HAS ALSO SURFACED ELSEWHERE AND MAY APPEAR AGAIN.

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Message Attributes

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